(b) The system provides the capability for the fishermen in distress to notify their location and type of distress. The system developed indigenously is at present under user trials.

(c) and (d) It is planned to distribute about 1000 units in the country during the course of the year 2008. These units will be handed over to the Indian Coast Guard who will decide the location of the equipment.

Rising number of vehicles

*315. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is fully aware of the unprecendented increase of vehicles in urban areas leading to major traffic and parking problems and at this rate, very soon, an unmanageable stage may come for want of necessary infrastructural facilities;

(b) if so, the policy initiatives envisages as long and short term measures; and

(c) whether in this context there would be a move to restrict the purchase and regulate use of vehicles on certain routes and during certain hours as in foreign countries, besides all out efforts to develop infrastructural facilities like new roads, broadening existing roads, construction of flyovers, diversions, by-pass roads, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Realising the seriousness of rapidly growing problem of urban transportation, the Government has formulated National Urban Transport Policy (NUTP) in April, 2006. It, *inter-alia,* seeks to promote integrated land use and transport planning, greater use of public transport and non-motorized modes of travel, use of cleaner technologies. It offers Central Government's financial support for investments in public transport, infrastructure for greater use of non-motorized modes, as well as in the construction of parking facilities, including demonstrative pilot projects. The thrust of the policy is on moving people rather than moving vehicles.

The policy initiatives envisaged as long and short term measures to deal with the transportation issues are the following:—

(i) Running of Modern City Bus Services on Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis.

(ii) Preparation of comprehensive mobility plan duly integrating land use and transport planning.

(iii) Prioritization of public transport and non-motorised mode of transport projects under JNNURM.

(iv) Capacity Building at institutional and individual level, innovative financing mechanism, institutional coordination and association of the private sector.

(v) Creating public awareness and promoting Green Travel habits.

(c) There is no such proposal at present.